United Nations

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# THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General's Personal Envoy to go to Yugoslavia tomorrow, for 7 to 10 days.

- Secretary-General calls for permanent solution to timely payment of assessments towards United Nations regular budget and peace-keeping activities.

- On the final day of its general debate, the General Assembly hears Foreign Ministers of Zambia, Mauritius, Uganda and Sweden, as well as Deputy Prime Minister of Fiji and acting Chairman of delegation of Latvia. President of Panama, Prime Minister of Samoa, Foreign Ministers of Sierra Leone and Dominican Republic and Permanent Representatives of Grenada and Estonia also address Assembly.

- Legal Committee hears condemnation of terrorism, but ongoing disagreement on definitions.

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A United Nations spokesman told correspondents today that the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy on Yugoslavia, Cyrus Vance, was scheduled to go to Yugoslavia, tomorrow 11 October, for seven to 10 days.

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar met this afternoon with Mr. Vance and Lord Carrington, mediator of European peace efforts in Yugoslavia. Mr. Vance is to report to the Secretary-General upon return from Yugoslavia. Meanwhile, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar will submit an interim report to the Security Council.

In a separate development, the Secretary-General was asked by correspondents this morning about the Israeli reconnaissance flights over northwest Iraq, and whether it would endanger the safety of United Nations inspectors in the area. The Secretary-General said that juridically, it was a violation of the airspace of a sovereign country, but that the question had not been raised at the United Nations.

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Israel has rejected complaints by Iraq that it had violated the sovereignty of Iraq, saying that the reconnaissance flights had been undertaken for security reasons.

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Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar this morning presented his budget proposals for 1992-1993 to the General Assembly's Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary).

Speaking in his capacity as Chief Administrative Officer of the United Nations, the Secretary-General said the Organization was again facing a serious financial crisis. Unpaid assessments to the regular budget currently totalled $723 million, which is over three quarters of the $962.7 million due for 1991. The Secretary-General reported a recent improvement in the situation, however, as 15 Member States have paid some $195 million since 1 October 1991. He said cash requirements are covered until close to the end of November. He stressed that a "permanent solution to the timely payment of assessments both towards the regular budget and peace-keeping activities" must be found.

Yesterday a United Nations spokesman said the Organization had received two checks this week from the United States totalling some $187 million towards the regular budget.

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The General Assembly today concluded its general debate, which began on 23 September. Opening the last day of debate this morning, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Zambia, Wilfred C. Wonani, addressed what he termed "the twin problems of development and the environment". He emphasized that cooperation in that area was necessary.

The international community must not settle for the lowest common denominator, namely, preserving the world's forests without initiating changes in the unsustainable patterns of production and consumption. The developing countries' legitimate questions on new and additional financial resources and non-commercial access to environmentally sound technologies must be answered. The international community must also commit itself to addressing the issues surrounding the external debt problem of developing countries.

In his statement, the Minister for External Affairs of Mauritius, Paul Raymond Berenger, reminded the Assembly that his country had proposed a south-west Indian Ocean and southern Africa nuclear-free zone treaty along the lines of the 1985 South Pacific Nuclear-Free Zone Treaty. While the declaration of nuclear-free zones in itself was no universal panacea to the ills that were engendered by nuclear weapons, he said, it was his firm belief that such momentum in the creation around the world of these zones, for example in the Middle East, in his region, in the Korean peninsula, was conducive to global security, that remained Mauritius ultimate goal.

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The Minister of Finance and Economic Planning of Fiji, Josevata Kamikamica, said that the major drive for the future economic development for Fiji and other Pacific island countries had to come from the seas and oceans. The tuna resources in his region, he said, were considered to be adequate to support the economic growth of the small islands, provided that they were economically utilized by the people themselves. However, the widespread use of driftnet fishing had caused overfishing beyond maximum sustainable years. He reiterated the support of his Government for a proposed moratorium in all regions of the world on a large scale driftnet fishing on the high seas by June 1992.

Mr. Kamikamica expressed the disappointment of his Government at the continued nuclear test in the South Pacific region by France, despite repeated calls for them to stop. He expressed support for the position of the countries of the South Pacific Forum which are calling for the testing of the nuclear weapons in the region to stop.

In his statement, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uganda, Paul K. Ssemogerere, cited a recent address by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Chairman, President Babangida, who had called for the restructuring of the Security Council and for serious consideration to be given to the election of an African to the post of the United Nations Secretary-General.

Uganda recognized, he said, that the development of Africa was its own primary responsibility. He drew attention to the recent Treaty establishing the African Economic Community, which was adopted at the Abuja OAU Summit in June. The Treaty was designed to expand markets, create forward and backward linkages in African economies and hence act as motor for Africa's growth and development on a sustained basis. He called on the United Nations and the international community to be supportive of African integration efforts.

The Acting Representative of Latvia, Ojars Kalnins, pointed out that his country was joining the United Nations at a time when democracy and international equality seemed to be prevailing in the world. The events of August in the former communist Soviet Union had given rise to hopes that, from now on, East-West relations would no longer be a source of confrontation, but rather a vehicle for solving complex, global and regional problems.

He expressed the conviction that Latvia would be able to play an instrumental role in this problem-solving process. To achieve this goal, however, he said Latvia had to recover a fully independent statehood without delay, which included the removal, as soon as possible, of foreign troops which continued to illegally occupy Latvian soil. A just and fair settlement of this issue in the Baltic region, he noted, was of critical importance, not only for that area, but for the world.

In her statement, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, Margaretha Af Ugglas, said her country would like to participate wholeheartedly in building a new Europe and was ready to accept its share of the common European responsibility in accordance with the goals of the Paris Charter. The Community was living proof, she said, that purposeful cooperation between

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States could lead to new and dynamic ways of working together. Sweden's wish to become a member of the EEC was an expression of its desire to participate in the Community's endeavours to pave the way for new forms of cooperation within a Europe open to the outside world.

The Swedish Foreign Minister welcomed the three Baltic States to the United Nations, saying that her country had been deeply and actively committed to their struggle for freedom. Sweden would continue to give its support to the reconstruction of their societies, she said.

The President of Panama, Guillermo Endara Galimany, in his address to the Assembly expressed his unconditional support for any means that would help restore the democratic Government in Haiti, and said he would accept no concession that betrayed the will of the Haitian people. The international community "could not allow the freely-expressed will of the people to be flouted, not in Haiti, not in Panama, not anywhere in the world", he said.

The Permanent Representative of Grenada, Eugene M. Pursoo, told the Assembly that almost eight years had passed since his country had been liberated from "an ideology that was alien" to its political culture. Since then, he said, Grenada had focused on rebuilding its economy and restoring the democratic institutions enshrined in its constitution, and returning the country to full constitutional rule.

On the proposed political union of Dominica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada, Mr. Pursoo said his country hoped for bright prospects of improved welfare and security and aimed for the establishment of "an appropriate constitutional authority to provide for progressive and orderly governance".

In his statement, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sierra Leone, Ahmed R. Dumbuya, said many people now agreed that the African crisis was basically political in nature, with serious economic and social consequences. That was why Sierra Leone's President had set the scene last year for greater participation in politics by the people of Sierra Leone, as well as a greater democratization of the political process. After 13 years of one-party rule, a multiparty constitution was now in place and, at the next election scheduled to take place within a year, the people of Sierra Leone would have the opportunity of choosing those they would want to govern them. However, Mr. Dumbuya said, his country continued to be invaded by "rampaging bandits". This aggression had resulted in the loss of lives of thousands of people and the displacement of many more, thereby compounding the serious refugee problem Sierra Leone already has.

In his statement, the Prime Minister of Samoa, Tofilau Eti Alesana, said environmental matters were certainly a great concern to the Pacific. He reported that the South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme had been strengthened into a fully autonomous regional organization, with its headquarters in the Samoan capital Apia. In addition, he said, the South Pacific Nuclear-Free Zone Treaty expressed Samoa's strong opposition to nuclear weapons and their testing in the region. The immediate and pressing

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concern was the danger that these tests posed to the fragile environment in the Pacific.

The Convention for the Prohibition of Fishing with Long Driftnets in the South Pacific had also recently entered into force, Mr. Alesana said. Marine resources provided an essential part of the life support system of the island countries of the Pacific, and Samoa was pleased that the importance of their conservation was now being realized.

The Permanent Representative of Estonia, Ernst Jaakson, expressed his country's gratitude for the support received during its struggle for independence which helped Estonia to realize its self-determination. In particular, he thanked Iceland, saying that that country's small size "did not stand in the way of moral courage".

Estonia had experienced many problems in attaining independence, Mr. Jaakson said, and central to these was its traditional political and economic orientation, which involved strong ties to Western and Central Europe. He said an immediate priority for Estonia was the restoration of those ties and quick integration with the political and economic structures of Europe.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, Juan Aristides Taveras-Guzman, rejected the charges levelled by Haitian President Aristide in his address to the Assembly, that the rights of Haitians in the Dominican Republic were being violated. He called the assertion "an unacceptable distortion of the facts".

What was at issue, he continued, was the right of the Dominican Republic to order the repatriation of aliens who had illegally entered and were residing in the Dominican Republic. He said hundreds of thousands of Haitians had come to stay in his country, and it was impossible for his Government to shoulder the tremendous burden of this immigration. He made an urgent appeal to the international community to come to the aid of Haiti. He also stated that the Dominican Republic had done "everything within its power" to seek a peaceful settlement of the problem.

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Delegates to the General Assembly's Sixth Committee, which is concerned with Legal Affairs, today roundly condemned terrorism as the Committee began its consideration of measures to prevent international terrorism and its underlying causes. Some delegates, however, said a proposed international conference intended to define terrorism and differentiate it from activities in pursuit of national liberation would not be practical.

Speaking on behalf of the 12 member States of the European Community, Robert Van Schaik of the Netherlands called for the release of hostages and abducted persons, including citizens of the European Community and United Nations staff members. Argentinian representative, Ernesto Martinez Gondra, said in Latin America terrorism continued to be linked to drug trafficking,

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the use of mercenaries and arms smuggling. He urged international cooperation to combat these activities, citing the recently-signed convention of plastic explosives as an example of such cooperation.

Syria, the first State to urge the convening of a conference, cited "deliberate confusion between terrorism and the struggle of peoples for national liberation". Other States advocated holding the conference while cautioning that the most dangerous forms of terrorism were those carried out by Governments and state military forces for the suppression of national liberation movements.

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